

4.19 The Promised Land: Trust and Obey

Topic: Peace in Community

Subtopic: Obedient Faith

2A. Prayer and Worship

2B. Scripture

Class: Standard IV (Grade 4)

Objectives: **Knowledge:** Students will write a verse as a prayer of faith.

Attitude: Students will believe God's Word and obey Him

Materials Needed:

Blackboard and Chalk

Exercise book

Optional: Art materials like chalk, colored pencils or markers and paper

References: Numbers 14

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:6

Teacher Activities

Introduction: Can you think of a time when you or someone you know was afraid to do something that they had to do?

Write the memory verse on the board. Say, "Sometimes God asks us to do hard things. We must have faith that He will help us and then we will obey."

Bible Story: Introduce the story and then hand out parts for *Reading: The Spies Give Their Report*. You may have more than one student read some parts so that everyone can participate. Discuss the story.

Application: Explain what the memory verse means. Share examples.

- Daniel
- Author's story
- Quote from John Wesley

Have students write a prayer based on a scripture promise. A concordance can help them find appropriate scriptures.

Evaluation: Are you praying prayers of faith? Do you trust the promises of God? Are your students learning to pray in faith for those things that they need? Look for opportunities to pray with your students or to encourage them by sharing scriptures.

Student Activities

Introduction: Students share about times when they were afraid.

Bible Story: Students read the *Reading: The Spies Give Their Report*. Answer questions about the story.

Application: Discuss the memory verse. Choose a verse from scripture that promises something they need. Turn that verse into a prayer and write it in their Exercise book. Examples:

- Turning Philippians 4:13 into a prayer, "Lord, you said that I can do all things through faith in Jesus. I believe that and I trust you to give me the strength to do this hard thing."
- Other promises might be Philippians 4:19 (My God shall supply all your need);
- James 5:15 (The prayer of faith will save the sick);
- I John 1:9 (He forgives our sins);
- Psalms 54:7 (He has delivered me out of trouble).
- Psalms 91:4- God protects

Evaluation: Do students' prayers express faith or fear? Do students understand that we must BELIEVE the scriptures as well as read them?

Extension Activities: *Art.* Have the students draw the Promised Land with lush pastures, hives of honey and large fruit. They might want to draw the fortified cities in the background. One way to do this is to use large sheets of newsprint or even the sidewalk and draw with chalk. Several children could work on the same picture. If you do not have chalk or newsprint, have them use colored pencils, colors, or markers.

Notes for Teacher

The Bible has over 3,000 promises. If we want those promises to happen in our lives we must believe and obey as God directs. This lesson shows how failure to trust God can lead to defeat while believing and obeying can lead to victory. This lesson emphasizes the importance of trusting and obeying God.

Key Points: When we read the promises of scripture, we must believe and obey them.

Introduction: Ask students if they have they ever been afraid to do something they knew they should do. Point out that the Israelites were afraid to obey God and because of that, they had to wait 40 years to go into the Promised Land.

Bible Story: Write the memory verse on the board. Sometimes God asks us to do hard things. If we trust Him and obey, He will help us but if we disobey we may miss out on God's blessings.

God had promised the Children of Israel that He would bring them out of Egypt and take them to a Promised Land that was "flowing with milk and honey." Moses and the Children of Israel traveled for many days and finally came to the land that God had promised them. Moses chose 12 spies, one from each of the tribes of Israel, to go into the land and see what it was like. They just got back from exploring the land and are ready to give their report. Let's listen.

Reading: Have students read *The Spies Give Their Report* (at the end of this lesson). You may want to have several students read in unison so that all students can participate. Discuss the story:

- Why were the people afraid? (The people in the land were big and strong and their cities were strongly fortified.)
- How was Caleb and Joshua's report different than the others? (They were not afraid. They said God would help.)
- Why was God angry? (The people did not believe Him or trust Him.)
- What **was** the result of their disbelief? (They were not allowed to enter the land. They would have to stay in the Wilderness 40 years. When all the adults died—except Caleb and Joshua—God would let the sons and daughters of those who were afraid go into the land.)

Application:

Discuss the memory verse. The Bible is full of promises from God. In order to receive the promises we have to do believe God's promises. Read Hebrews 4:2. What does Hebrews 4:2 say we have to do about the Good News God gives us? (We have to believe it.) The Bible is God's Word to us. The Israelites would have had to fight the giants for the land but God was going to help them. What the Bible says is true. You can trust it. Sometimes it is difficult to believe and difficult to keep trusting God when we don't see the answers right away but faith combined with the promises gets results.

Example 1: Daniel 9. In the book of Daniel we see an example of someone who *did* combine faith and the Word. Daniel was a captive in Persia. He grew up in Israel but had been taken captive as a young teen-ager. He had lived 70 years as a captive in Babylon and Persia. One day he read in the Bible, in the book of Jeremiah, where it said that after 70 years of captivity, God would let the captives go back to Israel. He began to pray for the release of the captives. His prayers and the prayers of others were heard by God. When Cyrus became ruler of Persia, he let the captives return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. Daniel was too old to go with them but he was still alive and could rejoice that God had kept his promise.

Example 2: Author's story. When I was a young mother we had a foster daughter who was a teen-ager. She had planned to live with us until she graduated from high school. As she got older she became rebellious and difficult. I didn't know what to do. I prayed for wisdom but I didn't think God was giving me any wisdom because I still didn't know what to do. Finally I said that she would have to go live somewhere else. She lived with another family until she graduated from high school. When I went to her graduation party, I asked the foster mother how she handled things with this girl. She said she just believed James 1:5 which says that if we ask for wisdom, God will give it to us. She said she prayed for wisdom and BELIEVED that God gave it to her. I realized I had prayed for wisdom but I didn't believe God was giving me wisdom, so I had given up. If I had trusted God, I might have done things differently. We must BELIEVE that God gives us what we ask for.

Quote: John Wesley was a famous evangelist from England who started the Methodist Church. He said that, "It seems God can do nothing on earth unless a man ask Him." God tells us in the Bible what He wants to do but he waits for us to agree with him in faith before he does it. Because the children of Israel did not believe Him, He did not let them enter the Promised Land for 40 years. Daniel, on the other hand, did believe and prayed for God to keep His promise. As a result of faith combined with God's promise, the people of Israel were allowed to go back into Israel after 70 years.

Writing a Prayer. Help students find verses that are promises. Some are listed above and you can find others in a Bible Concordance. Have students choose a verse that is a promise and turn it into a faith prayer. Have them write the prayer in their journal. For example, Philippians 4:13 could be turned into this prayer, "Lord, you said that I can do all things through faith in Jesus. I believe that and I trust you to give me the strength to do this hard thing I have to do."

Closing. Our prayers make a difference. We can take the promises of God to Him in prayer, believing that He hears and answers us. God is pleased when His friends believe Him and trust Him.

The Spies Give Their Report

Moses: What did you find in the land? Was it flowing with milk and honey as God said it would be?

1st Spy: Yes, it really was flowing with milk and honey. The fruit is so big it takes two of us to carry this big cluster of grapes.

2nd Spy: Look at these figs and pomegranates. They are huge!

3rd Spy: But the people who live in the land are strong.

4th Spy: The cities are fortified and very large.

5th Spy: Besides that, there are giants there.

6th and 7th Spy: We are not able to go up against the people. They are stronger than we are.

Caleb: Yes, we can take the land. God will help us.

8th Spy: No we can't! You saw the giants! We were like grasshoppers in our own sight and that is what we looked like to them.

Joshua: The land we passed through to spy out is very good land. If the Lord delights in us, He will bring us into the land and give it to us. Don't rebel against God.

Caleb: Yes, we must fear the Lord. He has told us to go in and take the land and we must obey him

9th and 10th Spy: No. We won't go. We're afraid.

Voice of God: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me?"

Narrator: God appeared in a cloud of glory. He was angry and ready to destroy the people but Moses prayed for them.

Moses: Lord God, for your own great name's sake have mercy. Forgive them.

Voice of God: I forgive them as you have asked, Moses, but only Caleb and Joshua will be allowed to enter into the Promised Land. You must all go back into the wilderness for 40 years. Everyone who was afraid will die in the Wilderness. When all the people who were afraid have died, the children of these people will grow up. Then I will bring Joshua and Caleb, and the ones who are now children, into the Promised Land.

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